

Pittman of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II. His heroic story, along with other Mobilians, is told in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War."

Mr. Pittman was working in Mobile for his father's carpentry business when he enlisted in the Marines. Trained to be a member of a demolition team that assaults enemy "strong points" in advance of the rifleman, he was assigned to the 4th Marine Division, 20th Marine Engineers.

In February of 1944, he and his division were fighting in the Marshall Islands before landing on Saipan. After securing the island, they invaded Tinian. Pittman lost 50 pounds in the five months he spent on these two islands. By February of 1945, he was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of his own demolition team. On February 19, 1945, Sgt. Pittman and his squad landed on Iwo Jima. The squad of 16 was left with only three men by the end of the battle.

Mr. Pittman's daughter, Beth Harrison, put it best in her article for the Hattiesburg American, "Dad has always said he has lived 62 years more than he should have and has often wondered and marveled at why his life was spared. Now, at age 84, Ken Burns will tell his story."

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Ray Pittman in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Pittman and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES VANIK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to former Rep. Charles Vanik of Ohio, who died Wednesday August 31 at his home in Jupiter, Florida at age 94.

Looking back at the career and mission of Representative Vanik, it is an utterly refreshing example of a legislator who didn't let politics get in the way of his goals and vision for his constituents and people all over the world. Many of my colleagues have already mentioned the historic Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Reform Act of 1974. This critical human rights legislation was the mark on the map for Charles Vanik with regards to those outside the state of Ohio, but for us Ohioans, we know Congressman Vanik as a lifelong stalwart for all of those who are socially and economically oppressed.

Charles Vanik led a life of complete selflessness. After receiving his law degree he was on the City Council and in the Ohio legislature where he was valued for his consistent effort and achievements. He then joined the Navy during World War II. After his time in the service, Charles Vanik became a municipal judge until 1954 when he first ran for Congress. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax law, Congressman Vanik was known for his fights against big

business tax breaks in the halls and corridors of Congress as he was known for his signature bow ties.

Congressman Vanik served honorably and long as a dedicated public servant. Mr. Vanik, who had rarely spent little more than \$3,000 for any of his re-election bids, became increasingly discouraged with the changing political world and the need to siphon time and resources away from addressing the concerns of his constituents. He chose not to run for re-election in 1980.

Charles Vanik's life and his commitment to principle are truly remarkable. I believe one of the most important things we should learn from the actions and words of Charles Vanik is to constantly hold ourselves to the highest possible standards, no matter what the political environment or what criticism you might face. The United States Congress and the state of Ohio will miss one of its greatest public officials, Congressman Charles Vanik.

HONORING BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bergen County Academies, whose outstanding work has been rewarded with the Intel Schools of Distinction Award which commends their superior math and science programs.

The Intel Schools of Distinction Award recognizes kindergarten through twelfth grade schools that promote 21st Century learning skills in math and science. One elementary, one middle, and one high school in each of two categories—math and science—will receive a \$10,000 cash grant and \$150,000 in products and services from the award's sponsors. In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards. Bergen County Academies was one of only six schools selected to receive this honorable distinction nationwide.

The classes at Bergen County Academies—from the pre-kindergarten class to the twelfth grade—have demonstrated excellence in implementing innovative programs that support positive student achievement in math and science, effectively use technology, and leverage the benefits of teamwork in the development of superior classroom teachers. Winning schools serve as models for educators across the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending Principal Daniel Jaye, the staff, and students of Bergen County Academies for their outstanding commitment to excellence in math and science. They are a great credit to our community and entire country.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN SIMPSON,
WES WILLIAMS, AND JOE JANSEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank three of my constituents who helped save the life of their friend Todd Endris, after he was attacked by a Great White shark off Marina State Beach in California on August 28. Though shark attacks actually are less common than the media would have you believe they are nonetheless startling and scary whenever they do happen. We are reminded only too graphically of the power of nature when these beasts of the ocean appear.

Endris, a 24-year-old student at California State University at Monterey Bay, was surfing in Marina when a 15-foot Great White caught him on his right side and dragged him under the waves. Todd fought with the shark, striking it again and again on the eye with his fist. After what seemed like endless punches the shark released Todd who scrambled desperately back to the water's surface exhausted and bleeding. His friend Joe Jansen who had seen the attack unfold shouted to Endris to grab hold of and climb back on his surfboard as best he could while friends and fellow surfers Brian Simpson and Wes Williams helped steer him back to the beach. Todd lost nearly three liters of blood and was close to shock. Without the intervention of the other three swimmers, he could have slipped away and back into danger's path. As it was, he suffered extensive injuries to his torso and right hip and leg. He was flown to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose and is now expected to make a full recovery.

Madam Speaker, August 28 started out like any other day for these young men, who were simply out for a day of surfing. No one expected to be called "hero" before the day was done. But that is exactly what I would call Joe Jansen, Brian Simpson and Wes Williams for their courage in saving their friend Todd Endris from a fatal shark attack. I thank them for their selfless bravery and wish Todd good luck in his recovery.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL VARNEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution of Fire Chief Michael Varney to the citizens of Ellington, Connecticut and the strength of our volunteer corps of first responders. Michael was recently selected by Fire Chief Magazine as the 2007 Volunteer Chief of the Year, a great honor in the field and a testament to the commitment and selfless public service of this citizen hero. The award is made all the more special given that the nomination and selection comes from his peers from across the nation amongst an enviable group of worthy candidates. Our nation owes a great debt to these first responders who voluntarily put their life on

the line to ensure the safety of their community and Connecticut is very fortunate to have Chief Varney as a member of its fire service.

After graduating from high school, Michael followed in his father's footsteps and began his career at the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department where he has now served for 23 years. He quickly moved up the ranks and became chief seven years ago. During that time, Michael has superbly led the 50-person department and has been instrumental in securing almost \$500,000 in federal grants to provide the critical life-saving equipment necessary to protect his community. He has led with dedication and poise under extreme circumstances and developed the respect of the region's premier firefighting personnel.

Michael has also contributed to the state and regional preparedness through his involvement with the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and the state's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. He is also a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs committee that has put together a national emergency response network of firefighters, hospital staff, and other emergency personnel. His full-time position with the Department of Information Technology has provided invaluable communication systems expertise not only to his department but also to regional and national organizations.

Chief Varney represents the changing role of our nation's first responders and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life of service and dedication to the protection of our communities.

COMMENDING JOHN GRAY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. John Gray of Mobile, Alabama, for his service to his country as a Marine during World War II. As a member of the 51st Defense Battalion, Mr. Gray served in one of only two black Marine units trained for combat.

After changing his age in an effort to get a job at a Mobile construction company, Mr. Gray was drafted into the military when he was just sixteen. Though he and his unit were trained for combat and sent to the South Pacific with training and experience in handling 90- and 150-millimeter machine guns, his white commanding officers relegated them to menial tasks such as unloading cargo and carrying ammunition.

Carrying his experiences from segregated Alabama into the Marines, Mr. Gray served patriotically despite discrimination. When Japanese propaganda encouraged him and other black soldiers to defect, Mr. Gray chose to fight for his country.

Returning from the war to a state still more rigidly segregated than the armed forces, Mr. Gray devoted his life to education. He is now retired after serving for 50 years in Mobile city schools as a teacher and assistant principal.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of John Gray in Ken Burns' documentary series "The

War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. John Gray and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Global Poverty Act and want to take a moment to explain the profound need for this important piece of legislation.

Nearly 2.7 billion people in the world live on less than \$2 a day. Close to a billion people live on less than \$1 a day. Vast numbers of people wake up every morning wondering whether they or their children will live to see the end of the day. Poverty leads to widespread disease and instability, and in a world with such vast resources, its existence is absolutely immoral. And yet, the United States has not stated that reducing global poverty and eliminating extreme global poverty are among the foremost goals of our foreign policy, nor have we implemented a comprehensive plan to reach these goals.

H.R. 1302 declares it official U.S. policy to promote the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of cutting extreme global poverty in half by 2015. This bill requires the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to carry out this policy. It includes guidelines for what the strategy should include from aid, trade, and debt relief to working with the international community, businesses, and NGOs to insuring environmental sustainability. The bill also requires the President's strategy include specific and measurable goals, efforts to be undertaken, benchmarks, and time-tables. Lastly it requires that the President report back to Congress biannually on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.

To be clear, Americans are working to address global poverty. The President implemented the Millennium Challenge Account to make sure countries don't just get foreign aid but use it wisely. Other significant steps forward include funding the PEPFAR effort and AIDS treatment and prevention in Africa. The United Nations set out the Millennium Development Goals and the G-8 set global poverty as its priority a couple years ago. Groups like the Gates Foundation, RESULTS and Bread for the World and a large number of other organizations combat global poverty from every conceivable angle. The world is coming together as it never has before to combat this menace, but in the U.S. no overarching strategy guides the allocation of resources.

The United States of America should be not just a leader, but the leader in this effort. We are in a position, I believe, to consolidate those resources, to get the maximum return on our effort to relieve global poverty. This bill would bring much-needed strategic vision and accountability to our efforts to address what is

arguably the greatest challenge facing the world community today.

I want to thank a large number of people for bringing the Global Poverty Act to the floor. House Foreign Affairs Chairman TOM LANTOS (D-Calif.) has been a tremendous leader on these issues and has been very helpful in this particular piece of legislation, as has Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-Fla.) and the Republicans on the committee. This is a bipartisan effort. I especially want to thank Congressman SPENCER BACHUS (R-Ala.) who joined me as an original co-sponsor.

It is very important that we adopt this legislation and help the U.S. take this leadership role. I believe if we do so we'll be better able to combat global poverty and be better able to build alliances throughout the world. This new policy will let the world know that the United States wants to use its power for the betterment of the entire world and that we want to work with the international community to solve the greatest crisis facing our world today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF EUDORA, KANSAS, ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Eudora, Kansas, located in the Third Congressional District, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on October 5th and 6th of this year.

In 1856, three members of a German Immigrant Settlement Company [called Deutsche-Neusiedlungsverein] from Chicago sent out a location committee to choose a town site in the new Indian Territory, which had been opened up to settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, enacted in 1854. Both pro- and anti-slavery groups flocked to this territory.

The three Germans sent to the present site were H. Heimann, F. Barteldes and C. Scheifer. Favoring the Eudora area, they drew up contracts with Shawnee Chief Paschal Fish for 774½ acres, from the Kansas River to the south for about a mile [over 200 blocks total], with two public squares and a park. In February 1857, Chief Fish entered into contracts with the Trustees of the Chicago Verein for purchase of land "to secure a more perfect title" for a price of \$10,000. Chief Fish bought back on the same day the old numbered lots of at least three blocks between the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. The Shawnee Reservation had been opened up for settlement; Chief Fish was a cousin of Chief Tecumseh, a businessman and a Methodist minister who had been educated at a Mission School.

A map of Douglas County drawn up in early 1857, before Eudora was a town, shows only four townships in the county with Eudora included in the Wakarusa Township. A group of 16 men, four women and some children had come in the spring of 1857 to begin settling at the site. Peter Hartig, age 34, was the leader of this Chicago group, and was accompanied by his wife. The Society paid expenses for the settlers. Eight more men, who paid their own way, came later. The formal title, signed by an Indian Agent named Newsom, was drawn up on February 4, 1860.